

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 26-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 24 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 10, 14, 15 and 19 are amended.

Entry of the amendments are proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); and/or (c) place the application in better form for appeal should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, as will be discussed below, each of the independent claims is amended to include allowable features (such as from previous claims 14, 19 and 24). Entry is therefore under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claim 29 is allowed and that claims 3, 4, 9, 14, 19, 23 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include features recited in claim 24. For clarity and to correct a typographical error, the word "relating" from claim 24 has been changed to "releasing." Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,600,708 to Meche et al. (hereafter Meche) in view of newly-cited JP 03283726 to Hiramatsu. The Office Action also rejects claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over

Meche in view of U.S. Patent 5,966,081 to Chesnutt and Hiramatsu. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

By this Amendment, independent claim 10 is amended to include features from allowable claim 10. Furthermore, independent claim 5 is amended to include features from allowable claim 19. For example, independent claim 10 recites setting the back four digits of the user's phone number as a password to be used for releasing the phone-locking. Additionally, independent claim 15 recites setting digits of the user's phone number as a password to be used for releasing the phone-locking state and releasing the phone-locked state after entry of the password. The applied references of Meche, Chesnutt and Hiramatsu do not teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, each of independent claims 10 and 15 define patentable subject matter.

Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims also recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 and 26-29 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the

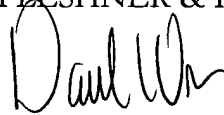
Serial No. 09/738,984
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2004

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application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David C. Oren**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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